# ACROSS THE CORRIDOR

Synopsis of Chapters Already Published

### CHAPTER IV.

EBEN'S ENDEAVOR.
OR the first time the attending doctor had his attention attracted to Eben, the faithful old servant, who lay in a faint near his

dead master.

re?" asked the physician.
"He was here with uncle when I ar "He was here with uncle when I all lived," answered Bob quickly, looking own at Eben, who began to stir in an fort to recover.
"Have him carried into the next "He's endeavoring to say something." "He's endeavoring to say something." rived," answered Bob quickly, looking effort to recover.

"Have him carried into the next om," said the medical man, and, in phedience to the orders a footman picked up the insensible form and started

off with it.

Having thrown a sheet over the body of John Stevens, the doctor hurried into the next room, followed by Phil and Bob. The footman had fust placed Eben on a bed, and the physician bent over him quickly, looking under his eyelids, testing his pulse and feeling for wounds. "Here's a dent in his head," the medical man muttered as much to himself as to the anxious young fellows whose faite might depend on old Eben's story as to the polsoning of his master.

Both Bob and Phil watched with breathless suspense, hoping for the recovery of the feeble old man. Which one would he accuse? What explanation would he offer for the death of John Stevens?

"The afraid he's almost gone," was the doctor's verdict as he turned to a tray of stimulants.

For fifteen minutes the doctor worked over Eben, but, though he got him to breathing normally, he could not awaisenten the man from the stuper into which he had fallen.

"How did he happen to faint?" the physician asked of Bob.

"It was like this," explained the younger man. "Eben was mixing some sort of cold'cure that he made for Uncle Jack. I was standing near my uncle talking to him, when suddenly he called out for the drink. Eben had just finished preparing it, and I stepped over, took the glass from Eben's hand and gave it to my uncle.

"He drank it, and immediately beans to act in a peculiar manner. Then Having thrown a sheet over the body

word of cold; over that his made on more of cold; over that his made or was used to fill the beautiful to his many the cold of the first thing in the cold of the cold of the first thing in the cold of the first thing in the cold of the first thing in the cold of the col

red.
e took the news of the tragedy with
fessional calmness and asked to see
body. After a brief examination he
ked up and scanned the two young
closely. Bob flushed and stared

back boldly.

"This is very serious. Your uncle died from poisoning. The poison, so far as I can ascertain, was nitric acid."

"Wouldn't it be possible to put enough nitric acid in a cough drop to kill a man?" asked Bob quickly, for Dr.





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# By ROBERT CARLTON BROWN

"THE BURDEN OF PROOF"

voice.

"Yes," replied the doctor vaguely.
Then he added, with much curiosity,
"Why do you ask that?"
"Because my uncle took a peculiarlooking cough drop just before he died."
"What do you mean," cried Doctor
Lyons, seeing the veins on Phil's face
swell, and noting the crafty look in
Bob's eyes.
At that moment there came a wail

### CHAPTER V.

THE BOX OF COUGH DROPS. THEY listened to the gurgle of old



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"Di-di-di-" went on the old fellow, out Phil could make nothing out of

that.

Half an hour he sat beside Eben, billearned absolutely nothing. It seemed that the man was getting more confused in his efforts at explanation, and Phil feared that nothing would ever be learned from him.

If Eben could only speak, then the true story of the tragedy would come out.

how completely everything had changed!
Phil suddenly heard the tramp of footsteps coming up the stairs, and vaguely realized that it was the coroner's jury assembling for their sitting. What would they find?
Dr. Lyons came to the door a few minutes later and told Phil that his presence was needed at the inquest.
The young fellow followed him into the den and looked around slowly. On a table in the center of the room rested his uncle's body, and around it sat a group of men, including Bob and the footman, who had been dispatched for Phil the night before.

original who had been dispatched for hill the hight before.

At the head of the table sat an ausers, cold looking man. Phil understood to a glance that he was the coroner. It was not quite time for the jury o convene. They sat talking in hushed olces, looking around with that air of ystery that pervades such a group of

One of the jurors couglied. The others looked up in a startled manner. The cough was repeated.

"Give him one of those cough drops of yours, Phij." drawled Bob.
Phil Daring fumbled in his pocket.

"Yes, we'll want those in evidence, too," broke in the covoner.
Phil had mechanically removed the box from his pocket where he had placed it the night before.

He handed it over to Bob who sat

handed it over to Bob who sat "Perhaps we'd better look at these first to be sure," said Pob. is we'd petter took as the sure," said Pob.
opening the bex he took out e drops and pressed it with his It was reduced to a sticky

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"What do you want to say?" by of a far greater quantity of the acid in Stevens' stomach than could be conin Stevens' stomach than could be contained in two of the cough drops. He talked on this strain for half an hour; the jury was interested, but not convinced. The body of Eben was then introduced by Dr. Lyons. He explained that there was a very peculiar circumstance involved in the old man's fainting.

long and heated argument that the jury brought in its verdict.

Neither Phil nor Bob had realized the full importance of this preliminary sitting. They both protested innocence, and were but little concerned with the jury that was to decide the cause of their uncle's death.

But when the verdict arrived both cousins sat up with a surprise and alarm that they had not drawned of the surprise and alarm that they had not drawned of the surprise and alarm that they had not drawned of the surprise and alarm that they had not drawned of the surprise and alarm that the properties and down.

self.

Phil, too, had not considered arrest as a possible outcome. The young fellow had been so wrought up over the death of his uncle, and Bob's suspicion of him, that he had thought of little



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gram and telephone. It was a great tragedy. Phil could see in his mind's eye the afternoon papers coming out with their pictures together, and underneath, in flaring red type, the question: "Which?"

He could imagine the yellow journals offering prizes to their subscribers for the ones that guessed rightly which of the cousins was guilty.

him.

A rasping rap on the bars below brought Phil back to the present and he leaned over just in time to look down and see Bob reading an open telegraph message in the turnkey's

hand.
"Is this for you?" asked the latter.
"Yes," answered Bob quickly, selzing
the yellow slip, and looking up furtively at Phil.
"Then you're the one that's called
Phil Daring. I can tell ye apart now—"
"No! I'm Daring!" cried Phil, springing from his bunk to the floor as he
realized that something underhand was
going on.

realized that something underhand was going on.
"No, you don't!" cried Bob, as Phil tried to seize the telegram.
"It's mine! I'll see it or know why!" cried Phil, his blood up.
Bob threw out his leg and tried to trip up Phil, but the latter was too quick for him. Bracing back, he plunged his fist full into his cousin's face, and snatched the telegram from Bob's hand as he fell.

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The ambassador then asked as to the contents of the letters, but was in formed that the Young Turks had disclosed nothing to the government. Hilmi promised to send the letters to the Kalser as soon as he got possession of them.

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